GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:375
ANSWERED ON:20.11.2002
ENHANCEMENT OF QUOTA OF HAJ PILGRIMS
ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Saudi Arabia has agreed to enhance the quota of Haj pilgrims;

(b) If so, the details thereof;

(c) Whether the government have taken the issue of providing better facilities to the Haj Pilgrims with the Government of Saudi Arabia; and

(d) If so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS(YASHWANT SINHA)

(a) & (b) The Indian Haj delegation went to Saudi Arabia and signed the Haj Agreement on 25th September 2002 with Saudi Haj Minister. Under the agreement the quota of Haj Pilgrims from India remains the same as last year. Out of this number, 72,000 pilgrims, would go to Saudi Arabia under the aegis of the Haj Committee, Mumbai.

(c)&(d) Yes. During Haj 2003, Saudi Arabian Airlines have agreed to increase the number of pilgrims returning to Indian from Madina. They will also operate from Hyderabad in addition to Mumbai, Delhi and Ahmedabad.